

**House File 28 - Introduced**

HOUSE FILE 28

BY HUNTER

**A BILL FOR**

1 An Act relating to the compulsory school attendance age and  
2 including effective date provisions.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 299.1A, subsection 1, Code 2013, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 1. a. Except as otherwise provided in ~~subsection 2~~ this  
4 section and section 299.2, a child who has reached the age of  
5 ~~six and is under sixteen~~ through seventeen years of age by  
6 September 15 is of compulsory attendance age. ~~However, if a~~  
7 ~~child enrolled in a school district or accredited nonpublic~~  
8 ~~school reaches the age of sixteen on or after September 15, the~~  
9 ~~child remains of compulsory age until the end of the regular~~  
10 ~~school calendar.~~

11 b. A child who will receive competent private instruction  
12 in accordance with chapter 299A and who reaches the age of  
13 six by September 15 is of compulsory attendance age. A child  
14 receiving such private instruction is of compulsory attendance  
15 age until the age of sixteen if the child reaches age  
16 sixteen before September 15. A child receiving such private  
17 instruction who reaches age sixteen on or after September 15  
18 remains of compulsory attendance age until the end of the  
19 school year.

20 Sec. 2. Section 299.1A, Code 2013, is amended by adding the  
21 following new subsection:

22 NEW SUBSECTION. 3. a. An individual who reaches the age of  
23 eighteen on or after September 15 during the school year and  
24 intends to terminate school enrollment prior to graduation is  
25 encouraged to file with the board of directors of the school  
26 district or the accredited nonpublic school of enrollment a  
27 formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment  
28 and, to the degree possible, participate in an exit interview  
29 pursuant to paragraph "b" and complete a survey in accordance  
30 with paragraph "c". The school district or accredited nonpublic  
31 school shall make every effort to notify the individual's  
32 parent or guardian of receipt of the individual's declaration  
33 of intent to terminate school enrollment.

34 b. To the degree possible, a guidance counselor or  
35 other school personnel designated by the school district or

1 accredited nonpublic school shall conduct an exit interview  
2 with the individual to do all of the following:

3 (1) Determine the reasons for the individual's decision to  
4 terminate school enrollment.

5 (2) Discuss actions that could be taken to assist the  
6 individual to stay in school.

7 (3) Inform the individual of opportunities to continue the  
8 individual's education in a different environment, including  
9 but not limited to adult education and test preparation  
10 designed to qualify the individual for a high school  
11 equivalency diploma.

12 c. To the degree possible, the individual and the  
13 individual's parent or guardian are encouraged to complete a  
14 survey provided by the school district in a format prescribed  
15 by the department of education to provide data on the  
16 individual's reasons for terminating enrollment and actions  
17 taken by the school to keep the individual enrolled. The  
18 survey shall include an open-ended question asking why the  
19 individual is dropping out of school. The school district or  
20 accredited nonpublic school shall submit the data from the  
21 completed surveys to the department of education annually.

22 Sec. 3. Section 299.2, unnumbered paragraph 1, Code 2013,  
23 is amended to read as follows:

24 ~~Section~~ Sections 299.1 and 299.1A shall not apply to any  
25 child:

26 Sec. 4. SCHOOL DISTRICT COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE SUPPORT  
27 REVIEW. The board of directors of each school district  
28 shall, during the school year beginning July 1, 2013, convene  
29 a working group comprised of educational and community  
30 stakeholders to review financial and programmatic supports for  
31 students affected by an increase in the compulsory attendance  
32 age from sixteen through seventeen. The working group shall  
33 consider, at a minimum, the necessity of expansion of support  
34 programs and services for such students, Internet-based at-risk  
35 academy courses, summer school offerings, credit recovery

1 efforts, mentoring and tutoring services, before and after  
2 school supports, career academies, and at-risk allowable growth  
3 provisions, and the use of the instructional support levy.  
4 The working group shall include in the comprehensive school  
5 improvement plan submitted to the department of education  
6 in accordance with section 256.7, subsection 21, a plan for  
7 addressing the needs of students at risk of dropping out,  
8 including any proposed changes to the local program or funding  
9 priorities.

10     Sec. 5. COMPULSORY ATTENDANCE WORKING GROUP. The  
11 department of education shall convene a working group  
12 comprised of the director of the department of education, or  
13 the director's designee, and other education stakeholders  
14 appointed by the department to review supports for students  
15 affected by an increase in the compulsory attendance age from  
16 sixteen to eighteen years of age. The working group shall  
17 consider, at a minimum, the necessity of expansion of support  
18 programs and services for such students, online at-risk academy  
19 courses, career academies, and current at-risk allowable  
20 growth provisions, and full funding of the instructional  
21 support levy. The working group shall submit its findings  
22 and recommendations, including any proposed changes in policy  
23 or statute, to the state board of education and the general  
24 assembly by December 15, 2013.

25     Sec. 6. STATE MANDATE FUNDING SPECIFIED. In accordance  
26 with section 25B.2, subsection 3, the state cost of requiring  
27 compliance with any state mandate included in this Act shall  
28 be paid by a school district from state school foundation aid  
29 received by the school district under section 257.16. This  
30 specification of the payment of the state cost shall be deemed  
31 to meet all the state funding-related requirements of section  
32 25B.2, subsection 3, and no additional state funding shall  
33 be necessary for the full implementation of this Act by and  
34 enforcement of this Act against all affected school districts.

35     Sec. 7. EFFECTIVE DATE.

1 1. Except as provided in subsection 2, this Act takes effect  
2 July 1, 2014.

3 2. The section of this Act providing for a compulsory  
4 attendance working group takes effect July 1, 2013.

5 EXPLANATION

6 This bill raises the compulsory school attendance age from  
7 16 to 17 for students other than those receiving competent  
8 private instruction. The bill encourages students, other than  
9 those who received competent private instruction, who reach  
10 age 18 on or after September 15 and intend to leave school, to  
11 file with the school district or accredited nonpublic school  
12 a formal declaration of intent to terminate school enrollment  
13 and, to the degree possible, participate in an exit interview  
14 and complete a survey that will provide data annually to the  
15 department of education regarding the reasons students are  
16 terminating enrollment.

17 The school district or nonpublic school must make every  
18 effort to notify the individual's parent or guardian of a  
19 student's intent to terminate enrollment. To the degree  
20 possible, in conducting the exit interview, school personnel  
21 must determine the reasons for the individual's decision to  
22 terminate school enrollment, discuss actions that could be  
23 taken to assist the individual to stay in school, and inform  
24 the individual of opportunities to continue the individual's  
25 education in a different environment, including but not limited  
26 to adult education and test preparation designed to qualify the  
27 individual for a high school equivalency diploma. The survey  
28 must include an open-ended question asking why the student is  
29 dropping out.

30 The bill directs each school district to convene a working  
31 group during the 2013-2014 school year to review financial and  
32 programmatic supports for students affected by the increase  
33 in the compulsory age of attendance. The working group  
34 must include in the school district's comprehensive school  
35 improvement plan a plan for addressing the needs of students

1 at risk of dropping out.

2 The bill also directs the department of education to convene  
3 a compulsory attendance working group. The working group  
4 is to review supports for affected students and to consider  
5 the necessity of expanding support programs and services,  
6 online at-risk academy courses, career academies, current  
7 at-risk allowable growth provisions, and full funding of the  
8 instructional support levy. The working group must submit a  
9 report to the general assembly and the department of education  
10 by December 15, 2013.

11 The bill includes a technical amendment to exempt children  
12 who meet conditions existing in Code section 299.2.

13 The provision relating to the compulsory attendance working  
14 group takes effect July 1, 2013, while the remainder of the  
15 bill takes effect July 1, 2014.

16 The bill may include a state mandate as defined in Code  
17 section 25B.3. The bill requires that the state cost of  
18 any state mandate included in the bill be paid by a school  
19 district from state school foundation aid received by the  
20 school district under Code section 257.16. The specification  
21 is deemed to constitute state compliance with any state mandate  
22 funding-related requirements of Code section 25B.2. The  
23 inclusion of this specification is intended to reinstate the  
24 requirement of political subdivisions to comply with any state  
25 mandates included in the bill.